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They are regular \$2.50 grades, but our large buying places them in your reach at...

Our "SUPERIOR"



233 Pa. Ave. S. E.

CHINESE ESSAYS.

Comment on the Abolition of "Wenchangs" in Kwang Hsu's Land. From the Shanghal Mercury, Sept. 4.

All China is ringing with the cry: "The eight-legged is abolished!" What foreigners commonly know of as Wenchang but scholars designate "the eight-legged" from its eight parts have been abolished by one stroke of the imperial pencil. Reformers would like to see that pen pre served just as was the pen with which Lincoln signed the proclamation freeing the slaves. The progressive regarded the Wenchang as a veritable octopus strangling real learning and talent. The octopus is dead and there are few to mourn save the booksellers whose books of model essays will now become dead stock.

The native papers are all discussing the great event. Let us hear what they say. The Tung Wen Hu Pao says the Wen-chang has been the vogue for 200 years in China, and like most other things age begets numerous abuses. The conserva-tives have stoutly pleaded for Wenchangs on three specious pleas. First, the themes set for Wenchangs are all out of the Four Books and Five Classics, which are the words of the Sages and Worthies. How words of the Sages and Worthies. How can miscellaneous literature compare with their words? Second, the form of the Wenchang is all right; the fault lies with the present age composers of essays at examinations. Formerly the essayists adorned their essays with history and the classics, and the essays were of a high order of merit. Today there is a great declension from that standard. Third, they say the Wenchang in the past has been

conceit! You are ten thousand li beneath You say the themes set for essays are very lofty. But generally only a frag-ment is set, not the whole passage, and the candidates are bound to treat this frag-ment in a fixed method, which instead of As to the second argument the abuses spoken of are inherent in the method. Every one merely wishes his essay to read smoothly, and be well adorned with elegant phrases from the best models. In ancient phrases from the best models. In ancient times they could accomplish this, but nowadays the essays are fifty paces behind them. But first and last, the meaning is least considered, the form is everything.

As to the third, the essay did not produce the men of ability. Men of ability merely adapted themselves to the method.

Symbols in a Carpet.

Parls Letter to the London Pall Mall Gazette. During the shah's last stay in Paris he paid a visit to the Gobelins, where he showed a most appreciative interest in all that he saw. Before a remarkably fine Persian carpet, given to the museum by M. Goupil, he remained for some time, in-M. Goupil, he remained for some time, interpreting for himself the symbolical allusions thickly embroidered upon it, which, however, he declined to translate into French. A few days since the mystery was cleared up. There arrived in Paris the manager of the imperial carpet weaving factory in Teheran, who stated that he had been commissioned by the shah to study the methods of manufacture in use at the Gobelins. To him the director applied for a solution of the legends of the carpet which had so captivated the shah. Thereupon the Persian began to read out a run-

ABOUT PORTO

Data Concerning the Island's Prehistoric Treasures.

VALUED COLLECTION AT SMITHSONIAN

Discoveries of Objects Showing the Skill of the Artisan.

INDO-ANTILLEAN LANGUAGE

Written for The Evening Star.

An article taken from the New York Herald under the title of "Relics from Porto Rico, or a Collection of Archaeological Treasures from the Southern Island," was recently published in The Star. The author of that article, in asserting in its first paragraph that New York possesses the most complete archaeological collection from Porto Rico, is in error. Not long ago Mr. Latimer, a wealthy merchant of San Juan, Porto Rico, presented to the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington, a most splendid collection of Porto Rican prehistoric treasures-a collection of such a wide importance that the Smithsonian Institution has considered it worth while to enrich its library with a book-already printed-treating especially of this collection.

The writer in the New York Herald goes so far as to state that no remains have been left in Porto Rico of Indian antiquities. an assertion in which he is also mis-taken. I know positively that there are in Porto Rico many who have splendid arch-aeological collections. Among others I will mention a fine one belonging to Dr. Agus-tin Stahl of Bayamon; another owned by the Rev. Father Nazarlo of Guayanilla; a very rich one is the property of Dr. Ca-yetano Coll y Toste of San Juan; Mr. Ed-uardo Neumann of Ponce has also a good yetano Coll y Toste of San Juan; Mr. Ed-uardo Neumann of Ponce has also a good collection, and so on. Furthermore, I know positively that Dr. Coll y Toste has written a book—not yet published—under the title of "Study on Prehistoric Porto Rico," which work obtained a first prize in a pub-lic contest held in San Juan, in 1897, under the auspices of the Royal Economic Society of the Country's Friend, a patrictle organiof the Country's Friend, a patriotic organization of San Juan. This volume, of which I have had the opportunity and pleasure of reading a few paragraphs, Dr. Coll y Toste contemplates publishing in English and

Spanish.

Now, in order to correct some other errors made by the author of the article mentioned, a little bit of Porto Rican history will serve for the purpose. When in 1508-12 Ponce de Leon conquered the Island of Porto Rico, with its aborigin people, all male Indians, recruited into squads—the encomendados as were then called—were devoted to the evolutiation of the gold. devoted to the exploitation of the gold mines found in the central range of moun-tains, and, inasmuch as the Spanish con-querors did not bring with them their own women, they appropriated the native females and held them for all domestic purposes, the multiplication of the people included. The male Indians, used as they were to the free habits of the primitive peoples, and unable to stand the rough work of the mines—especially as slaves, badly treated and still more poorly fed badly treated and still more poorly fed-were reduced to a minimum number. Some died of exhaustion, others poisoned them-selves with the venemous juice of the yuca brava (jatropha manihot), and many es-caped to the nearer islands. The historian, Father Bartolome de las Casas, states that the Island of Boriquen (the Indian name for Porto Rico) was in-habited like a bee hive, and he estimated a population of 600,000. Later historians re-gard this number as exaggerated, and ex-

gard this number as exaggerated, and express the belief that a hundred thousand is a fair estimate. Be it what it may the people of the island disappeared rapidly under the sentence of an enthronelested. inder the sentence of an anthropological law-an awful law-providing that in the contact of two peoples the inferior sucannexed and absorbed by the latter-which origin people of Porto Rico.

The Indians of the Antilles. The Indians inhabiting the island possessed a rudimentary civilization, consistent with the civilization existing during the prehistoric period of the "carved or polished stone," like the Indians of Cuba, Haiti and Jamaica. At the beginning of the Columbian period, two different peoples were found in the archipelago of the An-tilles, the Arawak people and the Caribbean people. The latter—a conquering race—had already laid a hold upon the Bariovento Islands, and from Martinique, Guada-lupe and St. Croix was extending its piracies over Porto Rico. The Arawaks, when captured by the Caribbeans, were by the latter carried to their islands. The males were killed and eaten, and the females be came ipso facto the property of the cap-turers. This accounts, beyond doubt, for the fact, so rare, but still detected by the missionary Father Breton, the author of the celebrated Caribbean Grammar and Vocabulary, that among the Caribbean Indians men and women spoke different languages, because the men used their own language, the Caribbean, while the women spoke the Arawak, which was their mother

By actual investigations a wise anthropologist can yet detect in Porto Rico char-acteristic features of the aborigin people. There are men and women who cannot fall to show their indigenous extraction, in spite of the fact that European as well as negro blood is detected in them—a fact that another law of anthropology clearly explains with the word atavism, that is to

say, a step backward. Objects of Interest.

Among the stone objects from the aborigin people of Porto Rico some belong to the period of the "polished stone," and the balance to the previous, or the "unpolished stone" period. Hence the fact that some are more finely finished than others.

Notwithstanding the opinion entertained by the writer in the New York Herald the uses of these objects are unknown to some people only, but not at all to those who have made a persistent and careful study of the subject. The majority of the stones are "fetiches," which were also made out of clay, in small sizes, and hardened by the action of the sun's rays. These clay fetiches are found in the native tombs, and the stone fetiches in caves consecrated as temples. Such caves had, besides, entrances or porticos, ornamented by the natives with figures representing idols, and their interior were full of small symmetrical faces, which is but a rudimentary principle

of the art of ornamentation.

Many of the stone objects look like lagartos, and others resemble faces. There are polished and unpolished hatchets, of different sizes, similar to the European prehistoric hatchets; also grinding stones of different sizes, used by the natives for the grinding of corn (maijl), from which their alcoholoc beverage was prepared. An in-strument made out of a piece of palm-wood, incrustrated with small pieces of the silex stone, the Indian name of which is guayo, was by them used to grind the powder, the yuca brava, from which a sort of bread called casabi was made.

There are also stone collars, very simi-

lar to horse collars, more or less carved and of different sizes also. According to Dr. Coll y Toste, these collars were symbols of authority among the caciques (chiefs) and the nytainos (assistant chiefs), for about half a dozen of them were found in the house of Caonabo, one of the highest caciques of Haiti.

Other Emblems of Authority. As symbols of authority the Indians also had the duho, a very small stone chair, with four legs and a recliner somewhat resembling the Venezuelan ture. The duho W. B. Moses & Sons.

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"Home-making" for the winter is the per-The fall season is fairly advanced. tinent topic everywhere. Plans for home beautifying certainly receive their most gratifying inspirations at this establishment. There's so much to see. It's so well brought to your notice. The care and dis-

crimination displayed in the selecting tells its own story. Divided under the heads of Furniture, Floor Coverings and Upholsteries and Draperies, your every want is anticipated. Acres of floor space crowded to the limit of their capacity with the best the world knows.



Dressers Of Unusual Worth for \$17.50.

-We put this dresser forth as a value that has seldom if ever been equaled at the price. The construction, the design-both place it on a plane of much higher priced pieces. The woods-full quartered oak, bird's-eye maple and mahogany finish. Oval French bevel plate mirror.

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-Bordered Carpets as we sell them have all the charm of bargains. They are bargains of the truest sort-remnants of many of the finest carpets-and all of the most popular ones made up in our sewing rooms—sold at less by far than the same grades of carpet could be made up from the roll.

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	Velvet, 3 ft. 9 in.x8 ft. 6 in		
	Brussels, 5 ft.x6 ft\$3.		
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	Velvet, 6 ft.x9 ft. 3 in \$8.		
	Brussels, 6 ft.x7 ft. 6 in		
	Brussels, 6 ft.x10 ft		
	Velvet, 6 ft.x7 ft. 6 in		
	Brussels, 6 ft.x9 ft	50	
	Brussels, 8 ft. 3 in.x12 ft. 3 in\$13.	50	
	Brussels, 9 ft.x12 ft\$12.	50	
	Velvet, 8 ft. 3 in.x13 ft. 4 in\$22.	50	
	Brussels, 8 ft. 3 in.x12 ft. 6 in	50	
	Brussels, 8 ft. 3 in.x10 ft\$16.	00	
	Brussels, 8 ft. 3 in.x11 ft\$17.	00	
	Brussels, 8 ft. 3 in.x7 ft. 8 in\$9.	75	
	Brussels, 8 ft. 3 in.x11 ft. 2 in	00	
	Velvet, 10 ft. 6 in.x11 ft. 10 in	50	
	Velvet, 10 ft. 6 in.x10 ft. 3 in\$23.	00	
Ĭ,	Brussels, 10 ft. 6 in.x12 ft. 5 in. \$21.	00	
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	Brussels, 10 ft. 6 in.x13 ft. 6 in \$20.	~	
	Brussels, 10 ft. 6 in.x12 ft. 10 in	50	
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Axminster, 11 ft. 3 in.x12 ft. 10 in......\$31.00

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rich new styles, grand parior carpets. Regular price, \$1.65 per yard. \$1.15
Special...

The CELEBRATED ALEPPO INGRAIN CARPETS, very heavy and splendid wearing quality, 18 patterns to select from Regular 50c. grade. Special

W. B. Moses & Sons, F St., Cor. 11th.

a stop in the small island of Mona, of which ITALY'S HEALTH RESORT laurel and tamarisk, varied with ivy, clembut recently I gave a short account in The Star. The Haitians and Cubans were, on star. The Haitians and Cubans were, on their part, commercially related with the

The Indo-Antillean language has certainly been lost; but the philologists have accom-plished not a little in their researches toward its re-establishment. In the above mentioned work on prehistoric Porto Rico, Ten Thousand Persons Make an Anwritten by Dr. Coll y Toste, I have seen a long vocabulary patiently collected by the author from the names still remaining in rivers, mountains, valleys; names of towns and even idioms and phrases that are pe-culiar to the Porto Rican people of this day. ADRIANO T. LOPEZ-NUSSA.

TRANSIT OF CHINA'S COURT.

Preparations for the Return of the Royal Family to Pekin. From the Shanghai Mercury, Sept. 3.

The Universal Gazette has received a letter from Honan stating that Sung Hao has received telegraphic advices from the Grand-Council to the effect that the official route has been handed in to the empress and received her approval. The court will go to Kalfeng, the capital of Honan, for a temporary stay. Crossing the river, as already | the Romans knew and used the briny wells; announced, at Liu Yuen, they proceed via and the Guelphs and Ghibellines fought Yen Chinghsien to Wei Hui-fu and Chang Te-fu, entering Chihli at Tzu Chou. At Chen Ting-fu they will encounter the railway by which they will go to Pekin. On receipt of this advice H. E. Sung at once yent expresses to all the officials along the sent expresses to all the officials along the route to make haste and prepare all things needful. All traffic at the ferries was to be

forthwith stopped.

It was formerly the intention to go by water all the way to Tien Tsin, but the Chinese plenipotentiaries wired that the French were making soundings in the river, intending to send launches to meet the court. When the court heard this the idea of going to Tien Tsin was speedily aban-doned. Over two thousand carts will be required by the imperial cortege. In ordinary cases the rule is to require hese from the various districts through which the road leads. In this case, however, it is thought that the rule should be departed from, and the following arrangements are contemplated: All the officials in the province will pay a money contribution, the best posts 800 taels, the next best 500 taels and the least lucrative 200 taels.

Older Than Their Chief.

From the Buffalo Commercial.

President Rooseveltois not quite forty. three years old. He will reach that age on the 27th of next month, having been born in New York city, October 27, 1858. It is a noteworthy fact that; he is not only the youngest man who ever held the presidential office, but that he is the junior of the members of his capinat on an average by about twenty years. The President is twenty-six years younger than Secretary Hitchcock, the oldest member of the cabinet, and thirteen years younger than Secretary Root, who is the youngest member of the cabinet. Five subject the senior of the retary Root, who is the youngest member of the cabinet. Five cibinet members are at least twenty years the senior of the President. Secretary Hitchcock is one month older than Secretary Wilson, both of whom were born in 1835 and are, therefore, sixty-six years of age. Secretary Gage is sixty-five years of age, and Secretary Long and Secretary Hay were born within twenty days of each other, the latter coming into the world October 8, 1838, and the former on October 23, 1838. Postmaster General Smith is firty-nine and Secretary Root is fifty-six years of age. But though the President is so much younger in years than his constitutional advisers, it can truthfully be said that in knowledge and experience of public affairs he is the peer of any and all of them. Secretary Wilson was born in Scotland, and therefore would be ineligible to the presidency under the present law of succession. There is, however, no provision for a Secretary of Agriculture to succeed, for the reason that when the law was passed vesting the succession after the Vice President in the members of the cabinet the office of Secretary of the Department of Agriculture had not been

CURES SAID TO BE WROUGHT AT

SALSOMAGGIORE. nual Pilgrimage to the

Waters.

From the London Chropicle.

Only the wise few among English and Americans have heard of Salsomaggiore, where ten or twelve thousand people of all classes (mainly Italians) come every year to be cured rather than amused. Here for generations men, women and children have been healed of almost every kind of ill which flesh is heir to, and no fuss made about it. The cures have not been attributed to supernatural agency, for they are almost as old as the rolling vine-clad hills that shelter the town. Our old friends do overworked nervous men of every rank and calling. It is a wonderful place.

But you want to know where it is? Well, it is only two hours from Milan, and thirty from Charing Cross. Borgo San Donnino is the station (on the main line to Bologna); and a curious little steam tram runs along the road from Borgo to Salso. Salso grows upon you, nestling in the smiling valley of the Po, at the foot of the Emilien Apennine. The marvelous salso-iodic waters are the strongest in the world

in lithium and stontium, and are besides exceedingly rich in iodine and bromine.

Remarkably Productive Waters.

When you arrive at the hotel you are aken in charge by the resident physician; for one is very properly not allowed to play with the cure at Salso. If the indiscriminate drinking of water at other cure resorts is dangerous, the thing would be the death of you at Salso-where you don't drink the waters at all; you bathe and you inhale. The doctor sees you and makes out your bulletin. Your baths are and you are either to inhale in the big, and you are either to inhale in the big, misty saloon, or else by the getto diretto—a jet of steam, sucking a bottle of water and spraying it into your mouth and throat. And now, having lunched and listened to the band in the big, cool vestibule, let us go and see the village. "A pity," you will say, "about those factory chimneys." They are not factories. Everything here is connected with the waters. They have a mul-

atis and roses and oranges, you look out over the swelling hills to the lofty chain of the Apennines, and the vast ocean-like plain whereon glisten the white towns of Parma, Cremona and Piacenza.

Baths of Brown Gravy.

Rest? It is all rest at Salso. Sweet smells and peaches, and slow ox-carts laden with absurd quantities of purple We are called at 7 for our bagni medical; for these may be taken in the hotel. It is not nice to be dragged out of bed, wrapped in blankets and shoved into a sedan chair, as one is at Aix-les-Bains, or the Mont Dore, where one must be taken from the hotel to the etablissement des bains. Your bath does not look inviting, being like brown gravy. You float helplass on the top. You soak in the gravy for thirty-five minutes (there is a clock over the door). Then you come back to your room with a desire for coffee and rolls, with honey from the slopes of Monte Rosa. Afterward you dress and go down. You may walk or drive, or go over to the Terme Magnaji and watch the people waiting for their baths. It is a model stabilimento with round corners (how else would you say that?) so as not to harbor dust. There is an imposing list of professors and consultants, and you can "pick out where you like," according to the attainments and de-

grees you fancy. An hour or so after your "gravy" bath you take your inhelation. I went to see the getto diretto, though it was not ordered for me. I beheld a long vista of taps or jets, each spouting steam. Before each sat an eager man, swathed in waterproof, and with his open mouth drink-ing in the contents of his bottle of water, which he receives in pulverized spray. You have to get used to this. As a mere polverizzazioni salsoiodiche was prescribed for me I sauntered into what the English peo-ple here call the "foggery." You present to the attendant in the ante-room the inhala-tion ticket you have bought from the sig-norina in the desk, and before you know where you are a man has clothed you ridi-culously, like a Bedouin—long burnous, tur-ban and all complete. You would ask him for a dagger were you not afraid he might think you had designs on the patients in-

Ordnance and Armor.

There has been a constant rivalry between the shipbuilder and armorer on the one hand and the gun, gunpowder and projectile manufacturer on the other hand. Every improvement in armor plate has been met by a further advance, either in the gun, the projectile or the propelling charge of gunpowder. An armor maker would announce the production of a steel plate which no existing cannon could penetrate. Then the projectiles were made conical, and with a sharp point, having a

fine temper, and the gun was rifled to give the projectile rotation and true flight, and the projectile rotation and true flight, and the guns were made to load at the breech instead of the muzzle, adding greatly to the rapidity and facility of fire. Another inventor then came forward with a method for hardening the surface of the plate by a process bearing his name. A Harvey-ized plate is so hard that it cannot be scratched with a file or cut with a cold chisel. Nickel was put in the plate, adding still more to its hardness and toughthe guns were made to load at the breech part of actories. Everything here is contacted with the waters. They have a multiplicity of uses. They have a multiplicity of uses. They yield gas with which of the rapidity and facility of fire. Another the control of light the town; they yield masses of the light the town; they yield masses of table sait which does not, for it must be handed over to a monopoly-loving government, which pays for the commodity much what it pleases. In one of the supposed factories you will see fiendish-looking much what it pleases. In one of the supposed factories you will see fiendish-looking between the state of both the repidity and factories of the plate is so hard that it cannot be continued to the plate is so hard that it cannot be continued to the plate is so hard that it cannot be continued to the plate is so hard that it cannot be continued to the plate is so hard that it cannot be continued to the plate is so hard that it cannot be continued to the plate is so hard that it cannot be continued to the plate is so hard that it cannot be continued to the plate is so hard that it cannot be continued to the plate and th chastes, and the essays were of a high order of merit. Today there is a great a soution for the legends of the carpet of merit. Today there is a great a soution from that standard. Third, they clean that standard. Third, they clean that the projection of the standard of the projection of the standard. Third, they clean that the projection of the standard of the projection of the standard. Third, they clean that the projection of the standard of the projection of the standard of the projection of the standard. Third, they clean that the projection of the standard of the projection of the standard. Third, they clean that the projection of the standard of the projection of the standard. Third, they clean that the projection of the standard of the projection of the standard of the projection of the standard. Third, they clean that the projection of the standard of the projection of the standard. Third, they clean that the correct its abuse than decrees its total disuse.

Such language is not unnatural the projection of the standard of the projection of the projection of the standard of the projection of the project

LIFE IN THE TROPICS

The Question of the Suitability of Climates for Colonists. From the New York Sun.

The nineteenth century saw a great development of the world's need of the trontcal lands. Their natural riches are very great, but the utilization of them on a large scale, outside of their own borders. has not long been of large importance. With the acquisition of the Philippines and Porto Rico, our practical interest in

all questions relating to the development of tropical lands is rapidly growing. Germany's participation in the study of these questions has been confined mostly to the few years since that empire became a colonial power. In that short time the citizens of no country have thrown more light upon the problem of tropical agri-culture, which will always be the largest industrial interest of the tropics, than those of Germany. The experiment stations maintained by the government in East and West Africa and New Guinea; the German Colonial School at Witzenhausen, where young men are fitted to fill responsible positions in the colonies; the coffee, cotton, to-bacco and other plantations which are being opened by colonial societies in all the foreign possessions; the experts in various lines sent out to make special studies in the field, are all contributing practical re-sults, research and experience of great value in the intelligent development of the German colonies. Some recent books published in Germany, such as Wohltmann's "Handbuch der Tropischen Agrikultur," are largely the outcome of the diligent study and experiment of the past fifteen years.

All the colonial powers are studying the questions relating to their tropical possessions. The suitability of climates for colonists and the rules of hygiene necessary to observe in tropical countries, the profits of colonial segriculture and have the essary to observe in tropical countries, the profits of colonial agriculture and how to enhance them, the development of stock raising, the labor supply, transportation and commercial facilities, and many other problems are receiving the most earnest attention. The Germans believe they have already demonstrated the practicability of profitable cotton and tobacco culture in Africa, and of tobacco raising in New Culture and come and at the blobact raise. Guinea, and of tobacco raising in New Guinea, and coffee sold at the highest price in London is raised in a region where Livingstone was the first white man ever seen. Singapore and Hong Kong, where residence was once almost fatal to white men, have been transformed into healthful places. Greet progress is being the contraction of the places. Great progress is being made in all directions and this century will see the resources of the tropics adding enormously to the general wealth of the world, though a hundred years ago they were a comparatively insignificant factor.

a hundred years ago they were a compara-tively insignificant factor.

This country is laying a broad founda-tion for the development of that part of the tropical domain which has fallen to it. Its policy touches all phases of the ques-tions that relate to turning our tropical possessions to the very best account for the people who inhabit them and the world at large. The services which William Me-